

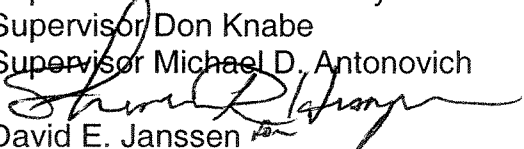


County of Los Angeles  
**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

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DAVID E. JANSSEN  
Chief Administrative Officer

July 18, 2003

To: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich  
  
From: David E. Janssen  
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors  
GLORIA MOLINA  
First District

YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE  
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Third District

DON KNABE  
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MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

**MOTION TO ENCOURAGE ENACTMENT OF LEGISLATION TO EXTEND AND  
IMPROVE MEGAN'S LAW (ITEM NO. 13, AGENDA OF JULY 22, 2003)**

Item No. 13 on the July 22, 2003 Agenda is a motion by Supervisor Knabe to send a five signature letter to the Governor, Senate President Pro Tempore, Assembly Speaker, Chair of the Assembly Public Safety Committee, and the County's State Legislative Delegation to encourage immediate enactment of legislation to extend Megan's Law indefinitely and to require the disclosure of the exact work and residential address of registered sex offenders.

**Background**

According to the California Attorney General's Office website, information on the whereabouts of dangerous sex offenders first became available to the public with implementation of the Child Molester Identification Line in July 1995. The information available from this source was expanded by California's Megan's Law in 1996 (Chapter 908, Statutes of 1996). Existing law requires adult and juvenile sex offenders to register with local law enforcement agencies and makes it a felony to willfully fail to register. It authorizes a law enforcement agency to notify citizens if a child or other person, that the offender is likely to encounter, may be at risk from serious or high-risk sex offenders. The State Department of Justice (DOJ) is required to operate a 900 telephone number that the public may call to inquire whether a named individual is listed as a registered sex offender. The public also may view computerized information at local law enforcement agencies.

### **Related Legislation**

On March 3, 2001, the Board acted to support AB 349 (La Suer), which required sex offender registrants to provide the DOJ with current information, including a photo and license plate number. AB 349 was signed by the Governor on October 12, 2001 (Chapter 843, Statutes of 2001). The Board also supported AB 26 (Pacheco) on March 11, 2003, which would have required the DOJ to provide information on the Internet regarding registered sex offenders who are serious or high risk offenders and would have appropriated an unspecified sum from the State General Fund to the DOJ to create the website. AB 26 failed passage in the Assembly Public Safety Committee.

Eight bills were introduced in the current Legislative Session to either extend or eliminate the sunset date for Megan's Law. Of these bills, all appear to have failed passage from their house of origin except for AB 1314 (Parra), which passed the Senate Public Safety Committee on July 14, 2003, and is currently awaiting a hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee. AB 1314, as amended on July 15, would extend the provisions of Megan's Law from January 1, 2004 to January 1, 2007. AB 1314 is supported by the Los Angeles County Sheriff, Los Angeles County District Attorney, San Bernardino County Sheriff, Faculty Association of California Community Colleges, and Californians for the Positive Enforcement of Megan's Law. It is opposed by the American Civil Liberties Union.

AB 488 (Parra), as amended on June 2, 2003, would have extended the sunset date for Megan's Law from January 1, 2004 to July 1, 2005. It would also have required that registered sex offender information be disseminated by July 1, 2005 via an internet web site maintained by the DOJ, and would have expanded the type of information that law enforcement may provide to the public regarding sex offenders. According to the author's staff, AB 488 was placed on the inactive file on motion of the author and the provision to extend the sunset date on Megan's law was amended into AB 1314.

For your information, ACA 18 (Spitzer) was introduced on July 9, 2003 to amend the California Constitution to require the Attorney General to establish an internet site to provide information regarding registered high-risk or serious sex offenders. Access to the information would be limited to those 18 years of age or older who are not registered sex offenders. An applicant seeking information must first provide proper identification and agree not to use the information to commit a crime against a registrant, engage in illegal discrimination or harassment, or disclose the information viewed. ACA 18 has not yet been assigned to a committee.

**Recommendation**

Sheriff's Department staff indicates that the Sheriff has been supportive of all Megan's Law extensions and enhancements proposed in the past and is currently reviewing this proposal for further expansion. According to the District Attorney's staff, the District Attorney supports extending the Megan's Law sunset date and authorizing publication of sex offender information on the internet.

Support for legislation to extend Megan's Law indefinitely and to require the disclosure of the exact work and residential address of a registered sex offender is consistent with existing County policy to broaden the scope of information about sex offenders that can be provided over the internet and strengthen reporting requirements under Megan's law.

Because AB 1314 would extend the sunset date for Megan's Law from January 1, 2004 to January 1, 2007, **we recommend that the County support this bill and seek an amendment to require the disclosure of the exact work and residential address of registered sex offenders.**

DEJ:GK  
MAL:MS:ib

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
District Attorney  
Sheriff